Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A flexible joint assembly for conducting a fluid, comprising:

a joint assembly inlet;

a joint assembly outlet; and

a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path including:

a first pivot joint;

a second pivot joint, wherein each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint independently comprises a ball and socket joint, wherein each ball and socket joint comprises:

a socket;

a ball received in the socket;

a seal between the ball [[to]] and the socket, and each ball and socket joint further comprises a compressing member axially compressing the seal between the ball and the socket and a retaining ring compressing the seal between the ball and the socket; and

a central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints wherein the central fluid conductor couples to a first ball of the first pivot joint and a second ball of the second pivot joint, and each retaining ring compresses the seal by threadably connecting to a surface of the socket adjacent to the central fluid connector and the ball,

wherein the pivot joints together provide greater than a 60° bend between the inlet and the outlet and each pivot joint independently provides greater than a 35° bend in the fluid flow path.

2-6. (canceled).

7. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint together provide a substantially 90° bend between the inlet and the outlet.

8. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the central fluid conductor is unitary.

9. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the central fluid conductor is shorter than 10 centimeters.

10. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the joint assembly inlet and the joint assembly outlet include a fitting.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein each pivot joint independently provides greater than a 40° bend in the fluid flow path.

13-40. (cancelled).

41. (currently amended) A flexible joint assembly comprising:

a joint assembly inlet;

a joint assembly outlet; and

a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the flow path including:

a first pivot joint;

a second pivot joint; and

a unitary central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints, each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint including:

an inner member;

a receiving member dimensioned to pivotally receive at least part of the inner member;

a sealing member sealing between the inner member and the receiving member; ~~and~~

a supporting member supporting the sealing member substantially uniformly over the entire length of the seal between the inner member and the receiving member, and

a retaining ring compressing the supporting member and the sealing member by threadably connecting to a surface of the ~~socket~~ receiving member adjacent to the central fluid connector and the inner member.

42. (new) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1, wherein the central fluid conductor includes a tubular central portion that defines a longitudinal channel between a first conductor end terminated by the first ball and a second conductor end terminated by the second ball.

43. (new) The flexible joint assembly of claim 41, wherein the central fluid conductor includes a tubular central portion that defines a longitudinal channel between a first conductor end terminated by the first inner member and a second conductor end terminated by the second inner member.